ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and *ENQUIRY*
Concerning matters
Eccleſiaſtical,
EXHIBITED
To the Miniſters, Church-Wardens, and Sidemen of every Pariſh within the
DIOCESSE of *GLOUCESTER*,
In the Firſt EPISCOPAL VISITATION
OF THE
Right Reverend Father in God,
WILLIAM, Nicolson.
By Divine Providence,
LORD BISHOP of *GLOUCESTER*.

LONDON, Printed for *William Leake*, at the Sign of the Crown in *Fleetſtreet*, between the two Temple-Gates.

The Form of the Oath to be administred to the Church-Wardens and Sidemen of every Parish.

YOU shall swear, That upon your diligent and faithful enquiry, you will make a true Answer unto every Article in this Book now given you in charge, and also present every person that now is, or of late was inhabiting within your Parish, that hath done any Offence, or omitted any Duty, therein mentioned. And this you shall do as in the sight of God, uprightly, truly and impartially. *So help you God.*

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Articles

ARTICLES
OF
VISITATION and ENQUIRY
WITHIN THE
DIOCESSE of *GLOUCESTER.*

SECTION I.
Concerning MINISTERS.

I. IS your Parsonage or Vicarage void, and destitute of a Minister or Curate? how long hath it been void? and who is known or accounted to be the rightful Patron thereof?

II. Is your Minister a Priest or Deacon, ordained by some Bishop, according to the Laws of the Church of England?

III. Is he defamed or suspected to have obtained either Holy Orders or his Benefice by Simony?

IV. Hath he been lawfully instituted and inducted into his Benefice, as you know or believe? and did he within two months after his Induction openly on some Sunday in the time of Divine Service in the Parish Church of his Benefice, read the 39 Articles

of Religion of the Church of ENGLAND, established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto?

V. Hath HE Any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one year hath he been absent from it without urgent necessity?

VI. Hath your Minister a Curate to assist him? is the said Curate in holy Orders? an able and discreet person, and conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? is he allowed by the Bishop to serve in your Church or Chappel? and doth he serve in any other Church beside? and what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allow him?

VII. Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, in reading the Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Childbirth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and Pronouncing Gods Commination against sinners, use the form and words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, without any addition, omission, or alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VIII. Doth your Minister at the reading or Celebrating any Solemn Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice?

IX. Doth he also observe the Holy-dayes, and Fasting-dayes prescribed, as also the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week? and doth he give notice to his Parishioners of every of the

the same Duties in the Church in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

X. Hath your Minister been licenced to preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities, or by any other lawful authority? doth he then constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a licenced Preacher, or being so licenced, be nevertheless hindred by sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid; doth he, to supply that defect, procure a Sermon on every such day to be preached by some other Minister, a licenced Preacher? or else one of the Homilies set forth by authority to be there read by a Priest or Deacon lawfully ordained?

XI. Doth your Minister every Lords-day and Holy-day before Evening Prayers (for the space of half an houre at least) heare the youth and ignorant people of your Parish repeat the Catechism set down in the Book of Common Prayer, and in the time of Evening Prayer, after the second Lesson, instruct them, and expound to them some part of the said Catechism? And doth he prepare and at fitting times present them, being so instructed, to be Confirmed by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries (if any such inhabit in your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden duty in obeying the Laws, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XII. Doth your Minister or Curate neglect to visit the sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant, that is in danger of death? is there in your Parish any child

past

past Infancy, or other person of more years, through your Ministers default, or otherwise, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? doth he baptize any without God-fathers and God-mothers? or admit either of the Parents to be God-father or God-mother to their own children?

XIII. Doth he in his Sermons preach sound Doctrine tending to the edification of the people in the knowledge and faith of Jesus Christ, and in obedience to Gods holy Commandments? or hath he at any time (as you know or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious, or Schismatical Doctrine, tending to the breach of the Unity of the Church, and with intent thereby to draw the People into Parties and Factions, to the disturbance of the publick Peace and Unity either of Church or State?

XIV. Hath your Minister presumed to marry any persons in private houses, or elsewhere out of the Church? or hath he married any, who being under the age of 21. years, have not had the consent of their Parents, or without Banes first duly published on three Sundayes or Holy-dayes in the Church, unless he had a sufficient Licence or Dispensation so to do? or if he had, hath he married at any other hours than between eight and twelve in the morning?

XV. Doth any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service, according to the Book of Common Prayer? And is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? and in his Prayer before Sermon, doth he observe that Order that is prescribed in the 55 Canon of Ecclesiastical Constitution?

XVI. Hath

XVI. Hath your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecyings, or Exercises not appointed by Authority? doth he or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private houses, or other places within your Parish, for people of several families to resort unto, under the pretence of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation, contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVII. Is there any Curate or Minister employed under the Parson or Vicar of your Parish? Is he admitted and licenced to serve in that Place by the Bishop of the Diocese? and is your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of a sober, honest and exemplary life? or doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vitious, or excommunicate Persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns, or Ale-houses? a common Gameller? a prophane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer or Quarreller? doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? or encourage them to suits and contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person either within your Parish, or without? doth he wear his hair of an immoderate or uncomely length?

XVIII. Lastly, Is any such Ministers apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church do require? And do you in any other kind whatsoever find and know his carriage and conversation to be disorderly, or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

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SECT. II.

Concerning as well Churches and Chappels with the Ornaments and Furniture thereunto belonging, as also Church-yards or Grounds set apart for Burial.

I. IS your Parish-Church or Chappel, or any part thereof converted and imployed to prophane, secular, or common uses? and what are those uses? and who they are, that so imploy them?

II. Is your Parish-Church or Chappel, and Chancel kept in good and sufficient repair? are the roofs thereof well covered with Lead, Tile, or Slate, the Windows well glazed, well ceiled within, the floors well paved, the seats well fastned, and conveniently well placed, and all things so decently ordered as becometh the house of God?

III. Hath the Steeple or Tower of your Church or Chappel, or any part thereof been pulled down, or have any of the Lead or Bells formerly belonging thereunto been imbezelled, sold or made away, or removed to some other Church? in whose hands or custody doth the same or any part thereof remain? Declare what you know or have heard herein.

IV. Is there a Font of Stone, with a good Cover thereunto, standing in a convenient place towards the lower part of your Church for the Administration of Baptism? And is there in your Chancel a Decent Communion-Table for the Administration of the Lords Supper, with a Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen-cloth, and another covering of white and pure

pure linnen to ſpread thereupon? And have you a Plate or Paten, and a faire Communion Cup, or Chalice, with a cover of silver, and one or more Flagons of silver or peuter thereunto belonging? have none of these things been purloyned, destroyed or made away? or if they have, who did it, and what was the value?

V. Have you in your said Church or Chappel, a convenient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read Divine Service in? a Pulpit, with a comely Cloth or Cushion for the same? A Bible of the last Translation in a large Volum, and two Books of Common Prayer, of the latest Edition, set forth by Authority of this present Parliament, both of them well and substantially bound? Have you the Books and Forms of Divine Service set forth for the fifth of November, the Thirtieth of January, and the Twenty ninth of May? Have you likewise the book of Homilies set forth by Authority? A Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical? And a Printed Table of the Degrees of Consanguinity and Affinity, within which Marriage is prohibited and void in Law?

VI. Have you a comely large Surplice for the Minister to wear at the times of his Publick and Solemn Ministration in the Church, provided and to be duly washed at the charge of the Parish?

VII. Have you a Register Book of Parchment, wherein ought to be Registred the names and surnames of all such Persons, as are Married, Christened, or Buried within your Parish? together with the names and surnames of both the Parents of the children so Christened, expressing the Day, Month and Year of

all such Marriages, Christenings and Burials: And is the Transcript thereof Yearly within one Month next after the twenty fifth of March, duly brought into the Bishops Registry?

VIII. Have you likewise another Book of Paper, wherein to record the names and licences of all such Strangers as are admitted at any time to Preach in your Church or Chappel? as also a third Book, wherein to enter and write down the Church-Wardens Accounts; together with a strong Chest with Locks and Keyes, wherein to keep the aforelaid books, and all other the afore-mentioned Utensils and Furniture in safe custody? And have you a convenient Bier for the Burial of the dead?

IX. Lastly, Is your Church-yard and ground set apart for Burials, sufficiently mounded and fenced with Walls, Rails or Pales, and decently kept from the annoyance of Swine, Horses, and other Cattel? hath any person incroached upon the same, or imployed it to prophane or common uses? or made any way into it out of his own ground or habitation, without allowance from the Ordinary? have any Trees there growing, been cut down? how long since? by whom? and to whose use and benefit?

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SECT. III.

Concerning the Houses, Gleabs, and Tithes belonging to Churches and Ministers.

I. IS the house of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate (with all the Out-houses thereunto belonging) kept in good and sufficient repair? or have any of the said houses, or Out-houses been defaced or pulled down by any Private person: and by whom: have any person incroached upon any Garden, Yard or Close, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage-house: or cut up any Trees growing thereon: or changed or removed the ancient marks and bounds of the same?

II. Have you a true and perfect Terrier of all the Glebe-lands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to Parsonage or Vicarage: as also a Note of such Pensions, Rate-tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly profits, (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto: have any of the same been withheld from your Minister: and by whom, as you know, or have heard? Is this Terrier kept in your Chest, and a Copy of it delivered into the Bishops Registry?

III. Have any of the Ancient Glebe-lands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, been taken away, or exchanged for others, without the free consent of the Incumbent, and licence from the Ordinary: when, and by whom were they so taken away, or exchanged?

SECT. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any Person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuse to come unto the Publick Assemblies, Prayers or Services of the Church? or, That make Profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England? If so, name them.

II. Is there any Person in your Parish, That lieth under the accusation of a common Fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? or that harbour such incontinent lewd persons in their houses? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blaspheamers of Gods name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers, or sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord amongst Neighbours?

III. Do any of your Parish upon the Sundayes or Holy-dayes follow and exercise their worldly and servile imployments and trades? or appoint or permit their servants or children so to do? are upon those dayes any Shops kept open, or wares sold? or do then any Victuallers, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any Persons to tipple or game in their houses? declare the names of the Offenders herein.

IV. Doth every person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, having no lawful lett, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon every Sunday and holy-day appointed for Divine Service? do they then and there abide quietly with reverence, order and decency, during the time of Common Prayer, Preaching, or other Service of God there used? and are there any among you, that forbear to partake of the Common Prayers of the Church, and come only to the Preaching? specifie the names of those, that you know to be faulty herein.

V. Doth every person coming to Church, reverently uncover his head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service in the Church? do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read?

VI. Are there any in your Parish that refuse, or wilfully neglect to send their Infant-children to be baptized publickly in the Church, unless in case of urgent danger, in which case, the child may be baptized at home by a lawful Minister, according to the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be baptized in any other Parishes, or after other form than is appointed? And are there any Infants or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. Doth every Houlholder in your Parish cause their children and Servants ignorant in the Principles of Religion, to learn their Catechism set forth in the Common Prayer-Book: and upon notice from the Minister, send them to him to give account thereof, when he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundayes and Holy-dayes,

as in the Rubrick of the Common Prayer-Book is appointed? to the intent, that being well instructed in the same, they may be capable to be confirmed by the Bishop. And are they sent and brought to the Bishop for that end?

VIII. Is there any person in your Parish, who being Sixteen Years of Age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the Year, of which Easter is alwayes to be one? Doth any of your Parish refuse to receive the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or are there any Strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

IX. Have you any among you, that be denounced and declared Excommunicate for any crime committed? for how long time have they continued so excommunicated? And do any of your Parish (not being of the same Family) usually keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. Are there any living in your Parish, who have been Married together contrary to the Laws of God, and within the degrees forbidden? Or any persons that being lawfully divorced, or rather separated from bed and board, have (both parties being living) one or both married to some other? Or be there any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not dwell together as man and wife?

XI. Are

XI. Are there any married women in your Parish, who after their delivery from the peril of Child-birth, refuse or omit to make their publick Thanksgiving in the Church? and when they repair to Church so to do, do they then and there offer the accustomed offerings?

XII. Are there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their duty for Easter offerings to your Minister? or any that refuse to contribute and pay the rate assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, for bread and wine used in the holy Communion, and for such Books, furniture and ornaments, (provided and bought) as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XIII. Do any of your Parishioners refuse to bury their dead according to the Form and Order of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that are not yet proved by lawful authority? Or are any Goods of persons dying intestate, administred without a due grant from the Ordinary? Did any dying in your Parish or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other Pious and Charitable purposes? what were those Legacies, and how have they been bestowed? or in whose hands are they detained?

XIV. Do you know, or have heard of any Patron or other person in your Parish, having the Presentation or Gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any bargaine either for money, or pen-

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tion, or leale, or reserve of Tithes or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon any other Simoniacal compact whatsoever?

XV. Is there any strife and contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church? Have any new Monuments or Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary? Have any late Tombe-stones been erected in your Church-yard, whereby the Parishioners are prejudiced, and the ground set apart for Burials is incumbred and lessened?

XVI. Knows you any person or persons, that have presumed to brawl, fight, or strike one another in your Church, Chappel, or Church-yard? If such, what are their names?

SECT. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAve you belonging to your Church or Chappel a Parish-Clerk, aged Twentie one Years at the least? is he of honest life and conversation? and sufficient or able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services? are his wages fully paid unto him? or who with-holdeth the same from him?

II. Doth he or your Sexton (if you have any such) with diligence and care lock and open the

doors

doors of your Church at due times? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from dust, cobwebs, or other annoiance? Doth he toll or ring the Bells at the due accustomed houres before the beginning of Divine Service, morning and evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this life, doth he upon notice given him thereof, toll a Bell as hath been accustomed?

SECT. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters, Physitians, Chyrurgions, and Mid-wives.

I. IS there any Hospital, Almeshouse, or Free-School founded in your Parish? who was the Founder, or is now the Patron or Visitor thereof? And what is the yearly Revenue, or Stipend belonging to the Governors, or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? and are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancellor? doth your School-master teach his Scholars in the Catechism of Religion, compiled in the Common Prayer-Book? doth he cause them upon Sundayes and Holy-dayes orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel? and see that

they behave themselves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. Doth any man in your Parish, practice Physick, or Chyrurgery, or any woman take upon her to exercise the Office of Mid-wife, without approbation and licence from the Ordinary: or other licence equivalent?

SECT. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.

I. ARe the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners? or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners, in defect of their joint consent?

II. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their just Accompts to the Parish, and delivered up also to the succeeding Church-Wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel by Bill indented?

III. Do you the Church-Wardens and Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundayes and Holy-dayes? and if you find any to have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do you by Warrant from some of the Justices of Peace, levy of them, by way of distress upon their Goods, the Summe of Twelve pence for every such day of their absence, according to the

Act

Act of Parliament in that case provided? And do you distribute the several Summes so levied, among the poor of your Parish, according to that Act?

IV. Do you note them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or without lawful cause depart before it be ended? do you suffer none to stand idle or talk together in the Church porch, or to walk in the Church or Church yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. Do you take care to hinder, and not to suffer any misbehaviors or disorders to be done by men, women, servants or children in your Church or Chappel? are you careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? And are you diligent to restrain all such things as may tend to the Disturbance of Divine Service or the Congregation?

VI. Do you against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantitie of fine White Bread, and of good Wine, according to the advice and direction given you by your Minister for the number of Communicants?

VII. Do you cause all Strangers that preach in your Church or Chappel, to subscribe their names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose?

VIII. Lastly, Do you know any other abuse or misdemeanour not mentioned in the fore-going Articles, which ought to be reformed, and may be reformed by Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction? If so, present the names of such as are faultie.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

I. The Church-Wardens are required and charged conscionably to perform their Office, and dulie to consider the Obligation of their Oath, and the danger of Perjurie. For as the true discharging of their Office, is the chief means whereby publick Disorders, Sins and Offences in their Parish may be reformed and punished; So if they wilfullie refuse, or omit to present such crimes or faults, as either they know to have bèn committed, or otherwise have heard of by publick Fame, then in such cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against them, as in cases of wilful omission and perjurie.

II. The Ministers of every Parish are required before the time of the Visitation, to give in the names of such of the Younger sort in their several Parishes, as they judge fit to receive Confirmation from the Bishop, and to present them to be confirmed; especiallie such as having competentlie learned their Catechism, have not yet received the Holie Communion.

FINIS.